

PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS BOARD

Meeting of Thursday, September 3, 2009

5:15 p.m.

Cabinet Room, Department of Education
2nd Floor South Wing, Townsend Building

MINUTES

Members Present: Michael Casson, Joanne Christian, Karen Gordon, Cristy Greaves, David Kohan, Jill Lewandowski, Gretchen Pikus, Karen Schilling-Ross, Shelley Rouser, Juanita Wilson, and Kathleen Thomas

Members Absent: Samtra Devard, Marilyn Dollard, Lori Hudson, Wendy Murray and Whitney Price

Others Present: Charlie Michels, PSB Executive Director; Pearl Carrington, Secretary Paula Fontello, Deputy Attorney General; Judi Coffield, Policy Analyst for the State Board of Education and Debra Stevens, DSEA

➤ *Mr. Michels shared a slide presentation with the PSB Members of his cycling trip in Ireland.*

Opening:

Call to Order: Ms. Thomas, Professional Standards Board Chair called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

Approval of Agenda: A motion was made by Ms. Gordon and seconded by Mr. Kohan to approve the Agenda. The motion carried.

Approval of Minutes: A motion was made by Dr. Greaves and seconded by Ms. Lewandowski to approve the Board Meeting minutes of August 6, 2009 with the correction on page 3, last sentence to read, “~~with~~ which resulted in their general approval”. The motion carried.

II. Public Comment
(None)

III. Presentation
(None)

IV. Executive Director's Report

State Board of Education - Mr. Michels stated that the State Board of Education has requested more time between the Standards Board, the DOE and other education agencies submitting work to them and the placing these on their Agenda in order to insure their

thorough review. This change will impact the PSB's regulatory work flow. It will subsequently take approximately a month longer for the publication/discussion/approval process.

Teach for America Update – Mr. Michels stated that there was a local newspaper article that gave information as to which schools TFA Corps members were going to be located. The DOE Office of Professional Accountability is attempting to keep a close track on the individuals relative to the passage of Praxis I, Praxis II, transcripts and educational agency requests for Emergency Certificates.

Epilogue Language - Mr. Michels stated during last month's PSB meeting that there is Epilogue Language which stipulates that the Secretary of Education will consult with the Professional Standards Board on matters of professional accountability and budget funds. Mr. Michels has spoken with Mr. Michael Jackson, the DOE Associate Secretary for Finances and Services, and he has promised Mr. Michels that he will be included in early DOE budget conversations.

DOE - It has been publicly announced that in Delaware's FY 2011, there will probably be a 30 million dollar budget reduction in the DOE budget. In FY 2012, the projections fall to about a 50 million dollar reduction.

There have been numerous Department staff that have resigned. The Department may be able to fill only percentage of them. The number of vacated positions is close to 50 at present.

Mr. Michels indicated that the five Department's five Innovation Action Teams (IATs) combined their work in a report forwarded to Governor Markell as a draft of the DOE Strategic Plan. The Governor is expected to review the work and send his revised Plan back to the Department in early October.

Mr. Michels was involved in the Delaware Education Support System [DESS] Distinguished Educator selection process. This designation is a requirement by the federal government to denote distinguished educators in the state who could be eligible to receive federal dollars by providing best practice professional development within districts and charter schools.

DOE Office of Professional Accountability - Mr. Michels talked about the changes necessary in DEEDS relative to Emergency Certificates. Some of the changes have been somewhat easy, others require considerable programming. Mr. Michels indicated that he is staying on top of and is pushing a bit for the necessary changes.

Mr. Michels had some Reports generated from DEEDS regarding the issuance of Licenses and Certificates. All licenses with the certificated areas indicated are now processed and sent electronically to individuals; both the recipients and their employing authority if employed in Delaware. This processing has considerably reduced the work previously done by the Office of Professional Accountability. There have been very few indicated glitches with the current process.

Mr. Michels is working on amending the online Paraeducator Renewal Manual to align it with web page changes in DEEDS.

V. Discussion

A. 1511 Issuance and Renewal of Continuing License: Options

Ms. Thomas stated that she and Mr. Michels have been reviewing and thinking of the many aspects of this complex regulation. It was noted that this regulation does touch on every Delaware educator, thus very careful scrutiny is needed to insure a fair and viable amended regulation. The Department has shared with Mr. Michels a variety of scenarios they are beginning to encounter, few of which are specifically referenced in 1511 to give them guidance in implementation. Most of these scenarios are related to expired Continuing Licenses, those educators who never received a 'new' Continuing License and hold a (previously issued) Standard of Professional Status Certificate, are from out of state or in combination with being out of the profession for any number of years. A discussion followed related to the newly proposed definition of 'Leave of Absence' and what an exigent circumstance would mean in relationship to extra time allowed to complete the 90 clock hours. Several scenarios were discussed at length. The general consensus of the Board was that if an educator had been out of the profession for over five years, the license issued should be an Initial License. At that time the educator would have to meet all of the related requirements including the passage of Praxis I and the New Educator Mentoring and Induction Program. Those with less than five years out of the profession would need to complete the one year mentoring provided by the employing authority and approved by the Department. Ms. Thomas, Ms. Fontello and Mr. Michels will continue to work on the regulation and at some point in the near future, share the work with The Department's Dr. Wayne Barton and Mr. Dan Cruce in anticipation of presentation to the Department's Cabinet for their review.

B. 1517 Permits Para Educators

Mr. Michels introduced the amended regulation with the ensuing conversation focused on the viability of amending the renewal options to mirror those in the proposed amended *Issuance and Renewal of Continuing License* Option chart. There was limited open discussion on this regulation, as Mr. Michels asked the Board to reflect on this possibility and request feedback from their various constituent groups. Mr. Michels did indicate that this is in the very early stages of regulation review.

C. 1503 Educator Mentoring

Mr. Michels introduced some potential changes in this regulation. It was noted by Mr. Michels that it is critical that changes in mentoring requirements amended into the Continuing and Initial Licensure regulations are then reflected in this regulation and visa versa. The regulation also now addresses educators who move from one category or position to another and the mentoring requirements imposed. Generally corporate titles or specific commercial program names have been eliminated and new or amended definitions provide clarity. Again, this is a work in progress, as Ms. Thomas, Ms. Fontello, Mr. Michels and Department staff continues to work on the regulation.

D. 1582 School Nurse

This regulation's review began close to a year ago as part of the five year review cycle. It was noted then by Mr. Michels that there were components addressing licensure that would have been more appropriately addressed in the licensure regulation not this certification regulation and that there were concerns regarding the actual implementation of the regulation , relative to the Licensure requirements. The regulation also needed to be brought up to date with the currently accepted formatting. Mr. Michels has worked with Department staff on the regulation, but it appears that the Department may decide to initiate a statutory change regarding licensure requirements for school nurses and acceptable alternatives to the student teaching requirements. The Department is aware of the concerns and limitations and may pursue a legislative initiative when the General Assembly re-convenes. If any Board member had a concern about accepting alternatives for school nurses for the student teaching licensure requirement, Mr. Michels asked that they contact him soon.

E. 1507 Alternative Routes to Teacher Licensure and Certification

The SBE concurred to publish this amended regulation. It was published in the September 1, 2009 Register of Regulations. This is the 'Discussion' month for both Boards. There had been no written comments to date. It was noted that this regulation reflects recent statutory changes and notwithstanding the amendments to the regulation, the current implementation of the Teach For America program is within the scope of the law. Some members expressed concern with the corporate name noted within the regulation and the mixed reviews of the program by research groups. Mr. Michels said he would share with the State Board of Education their concerns. This regulation will be on the October PSB and SBE Agendas for final approval.

F. 1512 Issuance and Renewal of Advanced License

The SBE concurred to publish this amended regulation. It was published in the September 1, 2009 Register of Regulations. This is the 'Discussion' month for both Boards. There had been no written comments to date. The Board shared no further concerns. This regulation will be on the October PSB and SBE Agendas for final approval.

G. 1590 Delaware Administrator Standards

The SBE concurred to publish this amended regulation. It was published in the September 1, 2009 Register of Regulations. This is the 'Discussion' month for both Boards. Mr. Michels noted that the Registrar made a few editorial numeration changes which did not impact the content. There have been no written comments to date. The Board shared no further concerns. This regulation will be on the October PSB and SBE Agendas for final approval.

VI. Action Items

A. 2009-2010 Mentor and Lead Mentor Stipends

The PSB and the SBE, as required in statute, must annually review for continued approval stipends for Mentors and Lead Mentors. Mr. Michels noted that the Mentor and

Lead mentor funding is budgeted in the DOE Budget for Fiscal Year 2010. A motion for approval was made by Ms. Gordon and seconded by Mr. Kohan. The motion carried.

B. 2009-2010 Approved Clusters

The PSB and the SBE, as required in statute, must annually review, modify as necessary, and affirm an updated list of Approved Clusters for Fiscal Year 2010. Mr. Michels presented an updated list of approved clusters reflecting a current list and indicating expired clusters that were no longer valid. A motion for approval was made by Ms. Pikus and seconded by Ms. Wilson. The motion carried.

VII. PSB Standing Committees

A. Licensure and Certification Criteria

The Licensure and Certification Criteria Committee has not met.

B. Professional Development and Associated Compensation.

The Professional Development and Associated Compensation Committee has not met.

VIII. Other

Mr. Michels shared that Board member Dr. Michael Casson was noted for his inspiring work with youth in a local newspaper. Mr. Casson said that he had teamed up with a coach who organizes basketball tournaments for young people. In between the tournament games, the young athletes were brought into the classroom where Dr. Casson spoke to them about making reasonable decisions about careers, such that professional athletes need to have back-up plans and those that aspire to be professional athletes need to have an appropriate college education if their athletic dreams are not fulfilled.

IX. Public Comment

None

X. Adjournment

A motion was made by Dr. Greaves and seconded by Ms. Gordon to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 7:30 P.M.

During the course of this meeting, the Professional Standards Board may enter into Executive Session to consider strategy with respect to pending and potential litigation or with respect to personnel issues. The Professional Standards Board may also take breaks.

The times designated on the agenda are approximate and are listed for administrative purposes only. The Professional Standards Board reserves the right, pursuant to Section 10004(e) of the Freedom of Information Act, to hear any matter out of its order during the meeting.